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50X1-HUM

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SUBJECT Shortage of Consumer Goods	DATE DISTRIBUTED 3 Oct 1956 50X1-HUM		
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<p>the conditions in Warsaw in respect to the availability of consumer's goods, particularly food and clothing, appeared considerably worse as compared to December 1955. the food and clothing stores were all supplied with limited quantities of goods during the Christmas season and there appeared to be no rush to buy up the goods. However, the same city during July and August [1956], the majority of the small stores were closed and endless queues stood patiently throughout the day in front of the larger stores. The queues were composed of old women, old men and countless number of children. The State was allegedly experiencing difficulty in the distribution of food and clothing to the various retail outlets and concentrated on only a few distribution points throughout the city. By this means the government authorities had hoped to discourage the consumers from buying clothing until the clothing supply was sufficiently adequate for wider distribution. As far as the food supply in Warsaw is concerned, within the period January through August 1956, there has been an acute shortage of meat and other foodstuffs.</p> <p>2. the people who wait in lines in front of the food stores always carry their own supply of wrapping paper, paper bags or wicker-type baskets. The stores do not wrap or package the goods which are bought. Many of the Poles indicated that they welcome subscription to Communist newspapers for the sole reason that they are useful as wrapping paper.</p> <p>- end -</p>			
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